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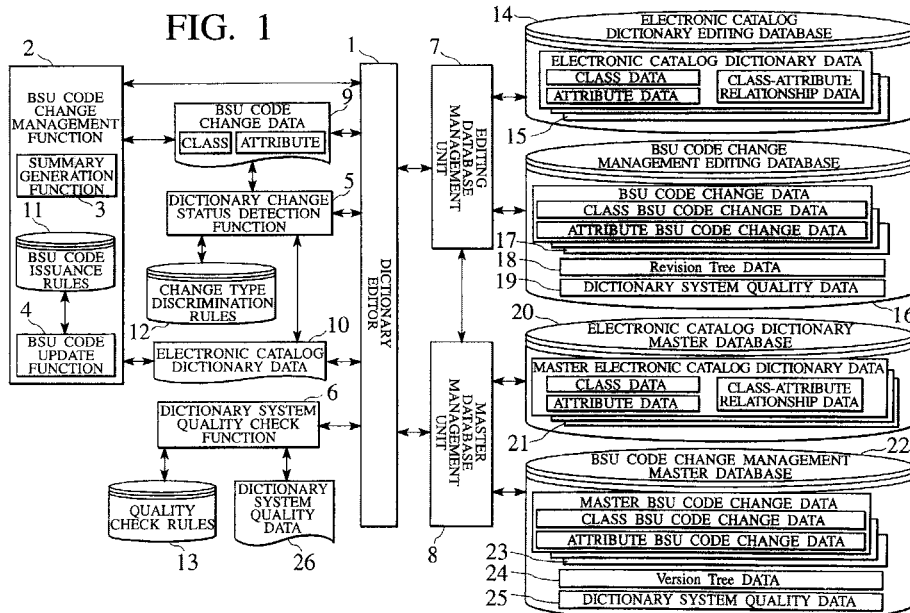
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(54) **Electronic catalog maintenance system for enabling out of standard electronic catalog changes**

(57) In an electronic catalog maintenance system using the dictionary data given in a form of a tree structure formed by identifiers for uniquely identifying classes classifying products and attributes of the products, the dictionary data are edited by making changes including standard changes defined by a prescribed standard and out-of-standard changes not defined by the prescribed standard, and an identifier change data indicating the

status of each change made by the editing and updates of identifiers to be made in the dictionary data is generated. Then, a new identifier of each class or attribute created by an out-of-standard change is issued and an old identifier of each class or attribute deleted by an out-of-standard change is retired according to the identifier change data, while storing the identifier change data in an identifier change database.





European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 0350

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	SILICON INTEGRATION INITIATIVE, INC.: "Component Information Dictionary Standard. CIDS Tutorial." INTERNET, [Online] - 1 October 1999 (1999-10-01) XP002213829 Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:www.si2.org/ecix/cids/cidsdoc.pdf> [retrieved on 2002-09-18] * page 2 - page 22 * ---	1-24	G06F17/60
A	US 5 787 444 A (WILLENBORG RUTH E ET AL) 28 July 1998 (1998-07-28) * abstract; figures 1,2,5 * * column 3, line 30 - line 54 * * claims 1,2,4,5,7,8,10,11,13-19 * * column 6, line 62 - column 7, line 12 * ---	1-24	
A	G. PIERRA ET AL: "Exchange of component data: The PLIB (ISO 13584) model, standard and tools." PROCEEDINGS OF THE CALS EUROPE'98 CONFERENCE, [Online] 16 - 18 September 1998, pages 160-176, XP002213455 Paris, France Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:http://www.plib.ensma.fr/plib/upload/ CALSEUROPE_master.pdf> [retrieved on 2002-09-17] * the whole document * ---	1-24	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) G06F
A	US 5 864 856 A (YOUNG CARL) 26 January 1999 (1999-01-26) * abstract; claims 1,2 * * column 2, line 24 - line 38 * ---	1-24	
		-/--	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 18 September 2002	Examiner Aguilar, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P.04C01)



European Patent Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 00 31 0350

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	<p>E. SARDET ET AL: "Formal Specification, Modelling and Exchange of Classes of Components according to PLIB. A case study" PROC. OF THE INTERNAT. SYMP. ON GLOBAL ENGINEERING NETWORKING GEN'97, [Online] 23 - 24 April 1997, XP002213807 Antwerp, Belgium Retrieved from the Internet: <URL:www.plib.ensma.fr/plib/upload/plib_model.pdf> [retrieved on 2002-09-17] * the whole document *</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1-24	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
MUNICH		18 September 2002	Aguilar, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 00 31 0350

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on the above-mentioned European search report. The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

18-09-2002

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US 5787444	A	28-07-1998	NONE	

US 5864856	A	26-01-1999	NONE	

EPO FORM P0459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82